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Honey: DRAFT FOR COMMENTS

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Report Highlights:

This is an UNOFFICIAL translation of the People's Republic of China Standard for Honey (GB 14963-xxxx) and should be used as a guide only. Exporters should carefully discuss regulations and their application with Chinese importers to ensure that their interpretation is accurate.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1]
[CH]

This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Beijing, People's Republic of China. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Introduction

The People's Republic of China Ministry of Health (MOH) published DRAFT versions of several National Standards in August 2002 on the MOH website (www.moh.gov.cn). This document is an UNOFFICIAL translation of a DRAFT National Standard that appeared on that website.

The MOH has not published a final version to this DRAFT therefore, the previous Standard, if any, is still valid. National Standards that are abbreviated 'GB' and issued by MOH are compulsory standards that both domestic and imported goods must satisfy. MOH standards abbreviated 'GB/T' are voluntary.

At this time, U.S. industry and government officials are invited to offer comments on the DRAFT National Standard. Questions and comments should be submitted to the USDA/FAS International Trade Policy Office of Food Safety and Technical Services by fax (202-690-0677) or by email (ofsts@fas.usd.gov and roseanne.freese@usda.gov).

Individuals/organizations offering comments are requested to provide copies of their comments to the U.S. Embassy Office of Agricultural Affairs by fax (86-10-6532-2962) or by email (AgBeijing@fas.usda.gov).

In order to facilitate comments regarding this regulation; please identify the regulation of concern and recommended changes by page, paragraph, and line before forwarding to FAS.

Once finalized, this standard will replace GB 13109-1991 Hygienic Standard for Tetracycline Residues in Honey and GB14963-1994 Hygienic Standard for Honey.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Items noted in the translation of GB14963-XXXX Hygienic Standard for Honey:

- This standard corresponds to, but is not equivalent with, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Codex Standard 12 "Honey"
- This standard will be substitute for GB13109-1991 "Hygienic Standard for the Residual Tetracycline Antibiotic in Honey" and GB14963-1994 "Hygienic Standard for Honey" from the date of enforcement.
- The original standard structure has been revised. The specifications on materials, usage of food additives, hygienic requirements for production and processing as well as packaging, labeling, storage, and transportation have been added to this standard.
- The scope of application was modified. The modification was made on sensory requirements.

Drafting Units of this Standard include: Food Hygiene Supervision Inspection Institute of Fujian Province, Food Hygiene Supervision Inspection Institute of Guangdong Province.

Drafters of this Standard include: Lin Shengqing, Huang Hongnan, Chen Weidong, Huang Miaoying, Dai Ying, Liang Jin, Zhang Zheng.

GB14963-XXXX Hygienic Standard for Honey

1. Scope

This standard specifies the hygienic requirements for honey production and processing and inspection methods. This standard applies to natural processed honey collected and made by eastern, western and crossbred bees.

2. Referenced Documents

The clauses in the below standards, though referenced in this standard, have become clauses of this standard. All listed documents are applicable at the time of publication of this standard. However, all standards are subject to modification and the parties that apply this standard should study the possibility of using the recent versions of the following standards.

GB 2760 National Standard for Food Additives

GB/T4789.24 Food Hygiene Microorganism Test of Candies, Cakes and Preserved Fruits

GB/T5009.12 Determination of Lead in Food
 GB/T5009.14 Determination of Zinc in Food
 GB/T5009.95 Determination of the Tetracycline Residue in Honey
 GB7718 National Standard for Food Labels
 GB14881 General Hygiene Standard for Food Enterprises

3. Requirements

3.1. Raw Material Requirements

Shall conform to relevant standard and regulations. Product shall not contain any poisonous matter from the plants of the honey source.

3.2. Sensory Requirements

The honey shall be a transparent or translucent sticky liquid at normal temperature. Honey shall crystallize at lower temperatures and feature the proper color, fragrance and taste of honey source plants, without astringent or acidic tastes. Honey shall be free from dead bees, grubs, honeycomb crumbs or other impurities.

3.3. Physical Requirements

Shall meet the regulations in Table 1.

Table 1. Physical Requirements

Item	Index
Lead (Pb), mg/kg \leq	1
Zinc (Zn), mg/kg \leq	25
Tetracycline residue, mg/kg \leq	0.05

3.4. Microbial Requirements

Shall meet the regulations in Table 2.

Table 2. Microbial Requirements

Item	Index
Total bacterial colony number, cfu/g \leq	1000
Coliform group, MPN/100 g \leq	30
Pathogens (salmonella, Shigella, staphylococcus)	Must not be detected
Mold, cfu/g \leq	200

4. Food Additives

Quality shall meet the relevant standard and related regulations.

The variety and amount of food additives shall comply with GB2760.

5. Hygienic Requirements for Production and Processing

Shall conform to regulations in GB14881.

6. Packaging

The packaging containers and materials shall conform to relevant standards and regulations.

7. Labeling

Labeling requirements for case-hardened packages shall meet regulations in GB7718.

8. Storage and Transportation

8.1. Storage

The products should be stored in dry locations with good ventilation and kept away from harmful, poisonous, volatile or corrosive materials with any strange smell.

8.2. Transportation

During transportation, the products should be prevented from sun, rain or the other harmful materials with strange smell.

9. Testing Methods

9.1. Lead

Determined according to methods in GB/T5009.12.

9.2. Zinc

Determined according to methods in GB/T5009.14.

9.3. Tetracycline Residues

Determined according to methods in GB/T5009.95.

9.4. Microorganism Requirements

Determined according methods in GB/T 4789.24.

END TRANSLATION